

5. THE GREAT INDIAN RORQUAL OR FIN-WHALE
BALAENOPTERA INDICA BLYTH OFF UMARGAM
(BOMBAY STATE)

The carcase of a whale—*Balaenoptera indica* Blyth, was washed ashore at Umargam on 14th May, 1951 (100 miles off Bombay on the B.B. & C.I. line) which had the following measurements.

Total length (tip of snout to tip of flukes) 74 ft.
do (do to centre of flukes) 68 ft.

Fluke 6 ft.

Height 5 ft. 5 inches.

Snout 13 ft. 6 inches.

Width just behind the head, between flippers 21 ft.

Flipper 6 ft. 1 inch.

Lower jaw 16 ft. 3 inches.

The carcase was in a high state of putrefaction rendering any anatomical examination impossible.

The last whale record off Bombay was that of an immature specimen—*Balaenoptera* sp.—stranded at Mahim on 12th April 1949 tapering 20 ft., published in Volume 48, No. 2, pp. 358, by Mr. N. G. Pillai.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

BOMBAY,

24th May, 1951.

V. K. CHARI.

Assistant Curator.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BIG GAME HUNTING AND
SHOOTING IN INDIA AND THE EAST

[Published in Vol. 48, No. 2. (August 1950).]

ADDENDA

The following titles to be added :—

	AUTHOR	TITLE	PUBLISHED
29 a.	Berg, Bengt ...	PA JAKT ENORNINGEN. Deals with Rhinoceros and some other animals. 67 plates.	1932
29 b.	„ „ ...	'TIGRAR'. Tiger and other animals, scenery and people. 68 plates.	1934
53 a.	Burton, Capt. R. G.	TROPICS AND SNOWS.	1898
58 b.	Carruthers, Douglas	BEYOND THE CASPIAN.	1950
73 a.	Cunningham, Col. A. H.	INDIAN SHIKAR NOTES.	1929
77 a.	Demidoff, E. ...	A SHOOTING TRIP TO KAMCHATKA	1904
92 a.	Fawcus, L. R., I.C.S.	REPORT OF THE GAME AND GAME FISHES PRESERVATION COMMITTEE on the existing species of Game in Bengal in- cluding a specially interesting article on the Rhinoceros in Bengal.	1943
114 a.	Gordon Graham, B. N.	HUNTER AT HEART.	1951

	AUTHOR	TITLE	PUBLISHED
143 a.	<i>Journal of the Darjeeling Natural History Society.</i>	1923 to 1930. Title changed in 1930 to the <i>Bengal Natural History Society</i> , 1930 to 1949 and onwards (?)	
155 a.	Lambert Cowley.	A TRIP TO CASHMERE AND LADAK (in 1874)	1877
169 a.	Mathias, H. V ...	FIVE WEEKS' SPORT IN THE INTERIOR OF THE HIMALAYAS.	1864
174 a.	Mohan Jai Ram Gir, Shri	USEFUL INSTRUCTION IN SHOOTING. (Printed in English and Hindi in parallel columns. Thirteen chapters, and a number of very amusing illustrations.)	1885
36 a.	Bloomfield, Col. Arthur ...	THE DOINGS AND DESTRUCTION OF THE MOST MURDEROUS ROGUE (C.P. elephant).	---
160 a.	Leveson, H. A. ...	HUNTING GROUNDS OF THE OLD WORLD. Part I. India; Part II. Circassia; Part III. Algeria; Part IV. Firearms Hints.	1878 (?)

CORRIGENDA

On page 235, under *Lydekker*, enter :—

6 a.	Lydekker, R. ...	CATALOGUE OF THE HEADS AND HORNS OF INDIAN BIG GAME bequeathed by A. O. Hume, Esq., to the British Museum of Natural History.	1913
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On page 235. *Pigsticking*. Insert between the two entries :—

"Raoul"	... PIGSTICKING IN BENGAL.	---
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On page 239, under *Lion*, enter :

23 a.	Lion ...	THE KATHIAWAR LION. By Lt.-Col. A. A. Fenton. Vol. 20, No. 3, pp. 737 to 752. This deals with hunting the Lion in Gir Forest.	1911
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Opposite item 23, enter year of publication 1909

On page 239, under *Lion*, strike out the line: (*also see Vol. 48. 493-515, 1909*)

On page 239, enter :—

23 b.	Lion ...	THE GIR FOREST AND ITS LIONS. By M. A. Wynter-Blyth. Part I. With a Map. A full and informative description of the area. Vol. 48, pp. 493-514.	1949 1949
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Part II. By M. A. Wynter-Blyth and Kumar Shree Dharmakumarsinhji, Vol. 49, No. 3, pp. 456-470. The Test Count—The Census—Conclusions and Recommendations—History of Junagadh Lions 1886 to 1936. 1950

Part III. By K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji and M. A. Wynter-Blyth, M.A. Vol. 49, No. 4, pp. 685-694. 1951

Vegetation—Habits and measurements.

On page 237, opposite item 14, last line, enter year of publication. 1925

WANTED. Year of publication of items : 58 b, 89, 90, 139, 209 and of 'Pigsticking in Bengal' by 'Raoul'.

Members able to supply the above wants, or to make any suggestions for further additions or amendments are asked to send these to the Honorary Secretary.

BANGALORE,
15th June, 1951.

R. W. BURTON,
Lt.-Col. I.A. (Retd.)

7. CROWS HAWKING FISH ON WING

It was early morning of December 31, 1945 and I was walking along a high bank of the tank at Unjha (a big town on B.B. & C.I. Railway, 54 miles north of Ahmedabad), when my attention was attracted by a number of herons and egrets flying over the calm water of the tank. When crossing over from one side to another, the birds flew very low, sometimes actually skimming the surface and at suitable places, they would dip their long bills with part of neck into the water and pick up fish which they swallowed upon reaching the bank. What was more remarkable was the presence of some House Crows among them, behaving likewise. These crows, about eight in number, were flying in company of the herons and egrets, though not so near the surface, and imitating their companions by actually diving for fish! They did not penetrate the water very deep but just broke the surface, and were not always successful in catching fish. But whenever they were able to strike a catch, the crows left the herons and egrets and immediately flew to the nearest bank and devoured the fish piecemeal. After consuming the fish, they returned to join the herons in fishing. As the crows are constitutionally unfit for aquatic life, their diving stunts appeared ludicrous. They looked particularly foolish when a pariah kite—one of several hovering about—pursued an unlucky crow with a fish in its bill and snatched away the tasty morsel. This game went on for quite a time till the sun rose and the tank began to be crowded with cattle and human beings, when the herons and egrets retired to the shelter of neighbouring trees. The crows too, in the